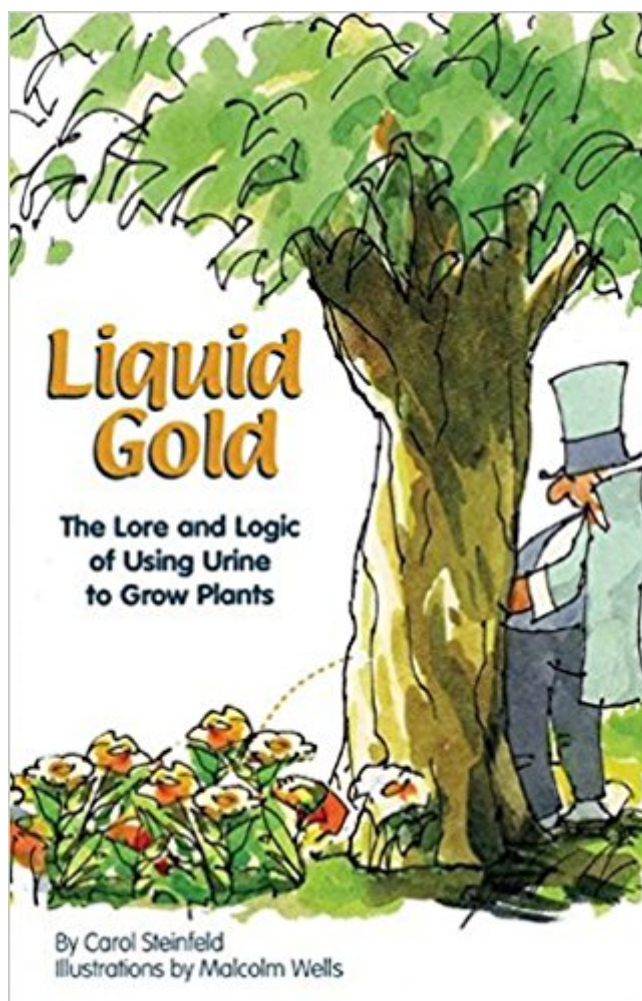


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# Liquid Gold: The Lore And Logic Of Using Urine To Grow Plants



## Synopsis

Nitrogen pollution of lakes, rivers, and oceans by human urine is a growing problem. *Liquid Gold* shows how urine can safely be used to grow food, fuel, fiber, and beautiful landscapes while protecting the environment and providing free and safe fertilizer. Featuring a short history of urine use—from ritual to medicinal and even culinary—and many whimsical illustrations, this great bathroom reader is an ideal gift for irreverent gardeners, homeowners, campers, environmentalists, and anyone who urinates. Carol Steinfeld is a writer, urinal designer, and ecological wastewater consultant. Malcolm Wells is a well-known illustrator and author specializing in underground architecture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nitrogen pollution of lakes, rivers and oceans by human urine is a growing problem. *Liquid Gold* shows how urine can safely be used to grow food, fuel, fiber and beautiful landscapes while protecting the environment and providing free and safe fertilizer. Featuring a short history of urine use—from ritual to medicinal and even culinary—and many whimsical illustrations, this great bathroom reader is an ideal gift for irreverent gardeners, homeowners, campers, environmentalists and anyone who urinates. (2006-11-08)

Carol Steinfeld is a writer, researcher, and program designer who specializes in ecological resource management solutions. She is the co-author of 3 books on wastewater management. As project

director for Ecowaters, a nonprofit public information project, she conducts workshops worldwide. Malcolm Wells is a well-known illustrator, draftsman, lecturer, cartoonist, columnist and the author of several books. Trained as an architect, Mac has been a tireless promoter of earth-sheltered houses for over 40 years.

Though I had heard of this book years ago, I finally got a copy of it just a few days ago. I think I was expecting "more" - but then again - I had just finished reading "The Humanure Handbook" by Joseph Jenkins, and was expecting a similar treatment of the subject. Steinfeld makes all the right points and does so in an interesting manner, but her method is more one of presenting possibilities than one of presenting a plan. It seems as though she is "reporting" - showing us pictures and descriptions of how folks have used urine. She doesn't seem to have a "passion" for the subject - something that people who do things radically different from others generally need to see the project through. Steinfeld is also diametrically opposed to Jenkins on best methods: She suggests separating and using the urine separately while "disposing" of the solid waste material by conventional methods. Jenkins is quite adamant about collecting and using liquids and solids together and recycling them both - a much more ecological and economically-sensible suggestion. (I'd LOVE to see these two authors review each others books!) I would still recommend this book for folks with a couple of \*extra\* dollars to spend or those just interested in learning how people past and present use urine. For those interested in shouldering the greater responsibility of properly, safely, and beneficially recycling their ALL of their "waste" I would suggest "The Humanure Handbook" instead. In all fairness and to Steinfeld's credit, "The lore and logic of using urine to grow plants" is an accurate description of this book's scope.

A fun book. The author is a real character! She seems utterly convinced that urine is the key to the future and refers to it simply as "liquid gold" throughout the book. She makes statements about how it's use "will" be implemented in the future without a thought to the possibility that it might not be the case. She explains how urine contains nutrients that plants can use and talks about how to use it in compost or spray crops with it. She also just briefly mentions how it stinks and explains that if it's sealed off from air then you won't smell it but offers no explanation of how to achieve such a storage situation. She also mentions that it contains a lot of salt and after a few years of use the salts will build up and prevent your crops from growing or even being able to sprout, but once again little was said to remedy this except that there are types of plants that can uptake salts and then be removed but she provides no information about how effective this actually is. An interesting book and I'm glad

I read it, but after reading this book I am actually more skeptical about the practicality of using urine as fertilizer than I was before.

I was quite disappointed in the research behind the urine use stories. I learned almost nothing substantive...just got more examples and testimonials. Author's heart is in the right place, but not much science to explain and support.

Lots of lore on urine through history, but not a lot about composing it for use today as the wonderful nitrogen boosting liquid that it is. Once used as a mouth wash, it's no wonder the Roman empire fell.

This is a smart, thoughtful book on an important subject. Despite the cartoon cover, the author approaches the use and disposal of urine in a practical and user friendly way. She presents convincing scientific information supporting the healthful use of urine for growing plants. Also, she gives good information on composting toilets. This is a timely subject for two reasons: first, the recapture of the nitrogen and other resources that are contained in the urine. Second: the disposal of urine without polluting drinking water. Like the Humanure book, this book makes the important point that the use of pure water to flush wastes away into the sewer system is a very poor use of very scarce resources. Highly recommend.

Nice history but little in the way of structured practical information. Buy "Create an Oasis with Greywater" instead.

I gave this book a midway rating due to the way the book repeats itself and the lack of information in general. Many of the facts in this book are somewhat common knowledge. If you want a book on recycling human byproducts, check out Joseph Jenkins "Humanure"

For anyone interested in this sort of thing "Practicality". This book is fun and interesting. I loved it. Very Easy read. Lots of techniques used around the world on urine separating toilets; along with ideas on how to create your own urinals. I actually made one after reading this book and am using it as liquid fertilizer in my yard. The design is so clean and out of the way that not even my wife was bothered by it!

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